QA-204 Cabin Neck Normans vicinity Private

18th century

Cabin Neck is one of a relatively large group of gambrel roof houses surviving in Queen Anne's County, and is also one of perhaps a dozen examples in which the roof was rebuilt at an early date, replacing the original pitched gable roof with the present gambrel. Although specific dating evidence is lacking, Cabin Neck clearly dates to the 18th century, with alterations to the roof in the early 19th century. One detail of particular interest is the original whitewashed framing, indicating that the walls were not plastered until the early 19th century.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Cabin Neck is located on the east side of Maryland Route 8 on Kent Island near the crossroads community of Normans. The house and several outbuildings are situated in a grove of trees surrounded by open agricultural land on the south side of Warehouse Creek.

The house was built in two parts, and has been through several renovations. The original house is frame, three bays wide and one-and-one-half stories high with a single brick chimney centered on each gable. This section probably dates to the late eighteenth century. It originally had a pitched gable roof, but this was removed and replaced with a gambrel roof in the early 19th century.

In the late 19th or early 20th century a two story frame wing with a shallow pitched gable roof was added to the southeast gable of the earlier house. This addition is slightly narrower than the main house, and consists of a single room on each floor.

In general, the original building is very typical of the small frame dwelling houses that

7.1 DESCRIPTION

were built throughout the Tidewater during the 18th and early nineteenth centuries. There is an exterior door in the center bay of each facade, flanked by a six-over-six window on either side. Two shed roof dormers with six-over-six sash are symmetrically placed on each facade.

The chimney on the northwest gable is flush, and the brick back of the chimney is exposed up to the first floor eave line. The only opening on this wall is a small window to the right of the chimney in the upper gable.

The southeast gable has been covered by the later addition, but on this end the chimney is not flush. It projects from the wall about two feet six inches, and has been adapted to service a stove necessary to heat the first floor of the addition.

The exterior of both facades is covered with beaded horizontal weatherboards secured with wrought nails. These weatherboards have been removed from the gable wall, and reused as flush siding, secured with machine nails. Wood shingles have been applied over the weatherboards on all exterior walls; the roof is covered with wood shingles as well. The box cornice has a beaded

7.2 DESCRIPTION

fascia board, crown mold, and bed mold.

The interior consists of a hall-parlour plan with the larger hall to the northwest, and the parlour to the southeast. The two exterior doors are at opposing sides of the hall. Each room is heated by a fireplace centered on the gable wall. There is an enclosed winder stair in the alcove to the left of the parlour fireplace, and a door to the wing to the right. There is a small closet below the stairs, with a very nice raised two-panel door hung on wrought H-hinges secured with wrought nails. The fireplace in the hall has a mantel typical of the 1870's or 1880's.

The second floor plan is similar to the first floor, except that the southeast room is divided into a short hall running along the northeast side of the house, with a smaller, nearly square chamber in the southeast corner. The hall provides access to the larger, northwest chamber, while allowing privacy for both rooms. The fireplace in the northwest chamber has a very fine Federal mantel. The scant early interior woodwork that has survived is also Federal.

Perhaps the most interesting feature is the evidence on the first floor that this house was not immediately

7.3 DESCRIPTION

plastered. Where interior plaster is missing, it is possible to see that the inner face of the exterior siding and the posts and studs were all originally whitewashed, and therefore exposed. The plaster was probably not added until the early nineteenth century, when the upstairs mantel and trim were installed.

The frame addition is three bays wide on the southwest facade, with a central door flanked by six-over-six windows on the first floor and a single six-over-six window in the center of the second floor. There is an exterior door in the south bay of the southeast gable, with a single six-over-six window directly above the door. The northeast facade is only two bays wide, with two six-over-six windows on the first floor and a single six-over-six in the center bay of the second floor.

Smokehouse

There is a very fine log plank smokehouse to the east of the house. This building is twelve feet square, and has a pyramidal roof covered with wood shingles. The logs are a combination of hewn and hand-sawn.

They average 8½ to 10½ inches by 3 to 4 inches, and

7.4 DESCRIPTION

have full dovetail notching at the corners. The walls are stabilized by a series of one-inch pegs driven down through the center of the planks at the mid-point of each wall. These were evidently intended to prevent the logs from warping or shifting. The door frame has been secured in the same manner, with a series of pegs on each side of the door opening substituted for the more usual method of pegging a plank frame into the opening. The door was hung on iron pintels driven into the outer face of the log wall.

The pyramidal roof is framed using one continuous rafter at each corner, with shorter jack rafters rising from the plates and butting into the corner rafters.

A heavy 6 x 6 post supports the peak of the roof, and is in turn supported by a girt running between the side walls and let into the joists.

The exterior of the building is covered with vertical boards, secured with machine nails. The cracks between the logs have been chinked with mud and thin pieces of boards.

PREHISTORIC _ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC _COMMUNITY PLANNING _LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE _RELIGION1400-1499 _ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC _CONSERVATION _LAW _SCIENCE1500-1599 _AGRICULTURE _ECONOMICS _LITERATURE _SCULPTURE	PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
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SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cabin Neck is one of a relatively large group of gambrel roof houses surviving in Queen Anne's County, and is also one of perhaps a dozen examples in which the roof was rebuilt at an early date, replacing the original pitched gable roof with the present gambrel. This change probably reflects a desire for increased space on the second floor, a characteristic advantage of the gambrel. Although specific dating evidence is lacking, Cabin Neck clearly dates to the 18th century, with alterations to the roof in the early 19th century.

Certainly the most significant aspect of this house is the whitewash on the first floor framing and the interior face of the exterior sheathing. This clearly establishes that the interior was not originally plastered, and in fact appears to have survived in this form until

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

the early 19th century. Examples of dwellings with unplastered interiors are relatively rare, and Cabin Neck is the finest example recorded thus far in Queen Anne's County. (1)

Interior details of interest include a hall-parlour plan with the stair in the parlour, rather than the more common hall location. A very fine Federal mantel is located in the larger upstairs chamber.

(1) It should be noted that the interior of the Queenstown Courthouse was similarly treated, but this building was not converted to domestic use until later, at which time it was plastered.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Forman, Henry Chandlee. Early Manor and Plantation Houses
of Maryland. Privately Printed, 1934.

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10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA	
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

Maryland

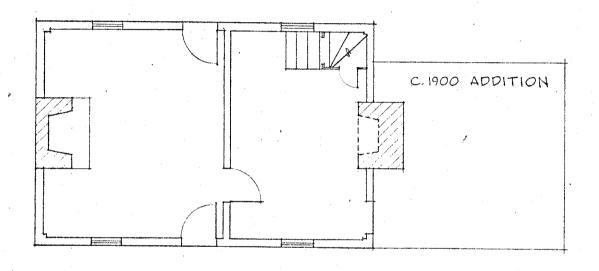
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

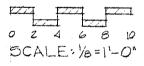
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust

The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438







ORLANDO RIDOUT V

QA-204

CABIN NECK KENT ISLAND, MARYLAND APRIL 20, 1978.



Mary McCarthy Spring/Summer 2003 Digital color photo on file at MHT



Mary McCarthy Spring/Summer 2003 Digital color photo on file at MHT





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Cabin Neck

QA-204 Cabin Neck
Batts Neck, Kent Island
Orlando Ridout V 1978
South facade



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